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# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1899.

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## A SAGE IN SCIENCE.\*

Brooks' lectures on the Foundations of Biology constitute a book that will live as a permanent addition to the common sense of science. It belongs to literature as well as to science. It belongs to philosophy as much as to either, for it is full of that fundamental wisdom about realities which alone is worthy of the name of philosophy. Writers of literature have been divided into those with quotable sentences, as Emerson and Thoreau, and those whose style runs along without break in the elucidation of matter in hand, as Hawthorne and Irving. To the former class Brooks certainly belongs. His lectures are full of nuggets of wisdom, products of deep thought as well as of careful observation. There is not an idea fundamental to biology that is not touched and made luminous by some of these sagacious paragraphs. Whether it be to show the significance of some unappreciated fact, or to illustrate the true meaning of some complex argument, or to brush away the fine-spun rubbish of theory, the hand of the master is seen in every line.

The main lesson of the work is that to believe is not better or nobler or higher

\* The Foundations of Zoology, by William Keith Brooks, Ph.D., LL.D., professor of zoology in the Johns Hopkins University. A course of lectures delivered at Columbia University on the Principles of Science illustrated by Zoology. New York, The Macmillan Company, 339 pages; price, \$2.50.